









## CORRESPONDENCE.

## SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON THE PEAK TRAM.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—My excuse for continuing this discussion is that the whole question of the Soldiers on the Peak Tram is a mountain to the Soldiers but a molehill to "X" and others.

The General Managers state:—"Service tickets are issued at a specially cheap rate upon the condition that they are not available for the central part of the car." Now there are only two back seats labelled 3rd Class, and they are always full of servants of Peak residents. Certainly the Tramway could not confine Soldiers to these two seats. Likewise, it was impossible to ask a soldier to pay the 1st Class fare, for Government would surely not have permitted it in the Ordinance. Thus the 10 cents fare is not really a concession made by a generous Company but an arrangement of necessity. As to the cheapness, 10 cents may be Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son's idea of a minimum fare, but to a soldier who has only 30 cents a day to spend it means usually stopping at Mount Austin or the walking up and down. By excluding Service tickets from the centre of the Car and the waiting-rooms one can only conclude that the Company was discriminating and that they assumed that 1st Class passengers would object to sit next to Service ticket-holders, for Service ticket-holders are not the only people who receive concession. There are season-ticket holders; 2nd Class travellers who are allowed in the 1st Class, centre included; travellers who are allowed youth tickets at a reduction of 15 per cent; provided they buy a number at a time. None of these are restricted, and even dogs are allowed to travel inside or out, although some people object strongly to their presence in the car.

Now, although I and many others think it ungenerous of the Company to place restriction on Service tickets, why not avoid the placing of Service ticket-holders in an unpleasant position (for whatever the Managers may contend no one likes being turned out of a seat, whether he is in the right or wrong) by distinctly marking the cars.

If the General Managers want to know my meaning as to giving Soldiers better treatment than civilians I will state unhesitatingly that, in view of our Soldiers here having given up good jobs at home, (thus placing themselves, through sheer patriotism in a position where they are unable to afford even a 10 cent fare in the Peak Tram) coupled with the fact that we civilians here are thereby enabled to continue our business and prosper, it is up to us not only to make their position comfortable but to recognise that it is no concession or charity on our part, but a duty, to see they are comfortable. Allowing a soldier the pleasure of riding inside the car for double his usual fare is hardly generous is it? What should be done is to reduce the Service fare to 5 cents, and place the resultant loss during the war on the other traffic.

To finish I would like to ask the Tramway Co. why they turn out of the outside 1st Class seats and also the 3rd Class seats. Soldiers make room for civilians. I have not only seen this happen many times, but have heard Soldiers complain about it.

For the pleasure of using your columns I beg to enclose \$30 for your charities.—Yours faithfully,

G. TISDALL.

Hongkong, March 16th, 1917.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—The enclosed rhymes have some bearing (which will be understood by many) on the Tram controversy. As I desire to remain anonymous, I enclose \$5 fine for War Charities.—Yours truly,

HENRY D. PEEVISH.

Ding Dong bell  
Tis in the well,  
Who'll pull him out  
Anyone I doubt.  
Oh! what a naughty boy was that  
To try and drown poor Tis out.

There was a little bell, its chiming was often heard  
At Peak Hotel and "Quorndon" and what was most absurd,  
This little bell made jump a man of high degree  
Who quoth—"This bell I'll curse, what'er its use may be."  
He cursed it while waking, he cursed it while sleeping—  
Never was heard such a terrible curse,  
But what gave rise to no little surprise—  
Nobody seemed a penny the worse.  
Hongkong, March 16th, 1917.

## HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

## GAMBLING RAID.

As the result of a gambling raid, Sergeant Clarke charged fourteen Chinese with gambling, before Mr. Melbourne. At the last moment, only three men and a woman appeared to answer to the summons. They were defended by Mr. Heywood, and, upon pleading guilty, were each fined \$2. Soon after the case had been finished two other men appeared, but their bail of \$25 was estreated.

## BUILDING OFFENCE.

The occupier of a house which is being altered in order to transform it into a restaurant was charged with an offence under the Building Bye Laws. The offence was that he placed a stove in the basement kitchen.

Mr. J. T. Edwards, of the Public Works Department, proved the case, and the defendant, who was defended by Mr. Gardiner, was fined \$5, and ordered to remove the offending stove.

## A KNOWING DOG.

When summoned before Mr. Melbourne with keeping a dog without a licence, an Indian named A. Brose, of 37, Bonham Strand, stated that the dog did not belong to him; it followed him about, and also came to his house.

When asked how long he had had the dog, defendant replied three months.

Mr. Melbourne held that this constituted ownership, and the defendant was fined \$1, he having taken out a licence since the issue of the summons.

## ALLEGED FORGERY, FRAUD, AND PERSONATION.

Mr. Wood was engaged yesterday hearing evidence in a case in which Yau Kwok Choi was charged with having personated a deceased man, forging his signature to a *chop chui* (certificate of ownership) and so obtaining a sum of \$130 on loan from a money-lender. Another Chinese, Pang Chan Fu, was charged with being an accessory before the fact. Crown Sergeant Aris prosecuted.

The story, as disclosed in the evidence, was to the effect that the second defendant called on the money-lender and presented the *chop chui*, which certified that the man whose name it bore was the owner of a piece of ground, and wished a loan on the security of it. A meeting was arranged, at which both defendants were present, and the money stated was advanced, the first defendant signing a mortgage deed with the signature of the man whose name appeared on the *chop chui*. It was only when the interest was not forthcoming that it was discovered that the name on both documents was that of a man some time dead.

The evidence was not completed when the Court rose.

## WARNING TO SHIP-OWNERS.

Before Mr. Melbourne, Chan Pik Chuen, manager of the Wing Fat Hong, 34, Bonham Strand West, was charged with failing to notify the Postmaster-General of the alteration of the hour of departure of the s.s. *Changva* from Hongkong, on the 3rd inst.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Postmaster-General, prosecuted, and Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor, defended. The case for the prosecution was that the defendant's firm notified the Post Office authorities that the *Changva*, which was to carry mails, would sail on the date mentioned at 10 a.m. In accordance with this notification, the mails, comprising 13 bags and a basket, were taken in the Post Office launch out to the *Changva's* mooring buoy, which was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that the vessel had departed, and no sign of her was to be seen.

The defence was that the vessel sailed exactly at 10 o'clock—the hour notified—and, no alteration of hour having been made, no further notification was necessary.

Mr. Melbourne, having heard the evidence of both sides, convicted the defendant and fined him \$50.

## IRISH SOLDIERS.

Speaking in Dublin recently, Sir Bryan Mahon, in the course of a speech, said:—"As regards the men of Ireland, they all knew what our soldiers had done. Everyone knew it. He had had a good deal to do with Irish soldiers in this war. They had had very hard times in Gallipoli, and were not very successful, but the Irish soldier held his own. (Applause.) No men could have done better than they did. Again, in Serbia, with the French, the only British soldiers there were Irishmen, and they had done extremely well. As far as the Army went, they ought to be very proud of what our class of Irishmen had done—he meant the labouring and working classes in Ireland. They had joined the Army up to practically the last man. (Hear, hear.) He knew that to be the case, because he travelled through Ireland, and he knew that in that part of Ireland where he lived there were not many able-bodied men left. The agricultural labour class had also done very well, and Ireland might be proud that they had joined the Army in very large numbers. (Applause.)"

## SPORT.

## CRICKET.

88th CO. R.G.A. v. 87th CO. R.G.A.

These teams met at the Happy Valley yesterday, in the competition for the Royal Artillery Cricket Cup. The 88th Company made a very poor start, four wickets being down for sixteen runs. Smith then came to the rescue, and by some good hard hitting obtained fifty-three in a very short time, making the prospects appear much brighter for his side. His hits included nine fours and a five. Storr going on to bowl managed to get him caught, and, apart from a thirteen by Ross, the remainder offered little resistance to the bowling, Storr obtaining five wickets for twenty-three runs. Capt. Taylor and Saunders started in good style, but after the latter had been run out, the home team were never very anxious as to the result. Caple and Hansford bowled unchanged for the winning team taking four and five wickets respectively. Scores:—

88TH COMPANY R.G.A.				
Sergt. Smith, c. Britnell, b. Edgeler	50	0	0	0
Sergt. Telford, b. Britnell, b. Edgeler	10	0	0	0
Bombr. Graham, b. Edgeler	0	0	0	0
Gunnr. Caple, b. Britnell	0	0	0	0
Corpl. Smith, c. Godden, b. Storr	53	0	0	0
Lieut. Wilkinson, b. Storr	8	0	0	0
Sergt. Ross, c. Fisher, b. Edgeler	13	0	0	0
Sergt. Davis, b. Storr	4	0	0	0
Corpl. Griffiths, b. Storr	5	0	0	0
Sergt. Desborough, b. Storr	10	0	0	0
Gunnr. Hansford, not out	3	0	0	0
Extras	9	0	0	0
Total	117	0	0	0

Bowling Analysis.				
Gunnr. Britnell	7	0	46	2
Corpl. Edgeler	6	0	35	3
Gunnr. Storr	4	0	26	5
Sergt. Godden	2	0	8	0

87TH COMPANY R.G.A.				
Capt. Taylor, c. Ross, b. Hansford	14	0	0	0
Gunnr. Saunders, run out	1	0	0	0
Corpl. Edgeler, b. Caple	2	0	0	0
Gunnr. Storr, c. and b. Caple	0	0	0	0
Gunnr. Britnell, c. and b. Hansford	0	0	0	0
Bombr. Smith, not out	0	0	0	0
Gunnr. Southworth, b. Caple	1	0	0	0
Sergt. Godden, c. Griffiths, b. Hansford	9	0	0	0
Sm.-Gunnr. Knight, b. Hansford	0	0	0	0
Gunnr. Cox, c. Griffiths, b. Caple	0	0	0	0
Sergt. Fisher, c. Caple, b. Hansford	4	0	0	0
Extras	4	0	0	0
Total	35	0	0	0

Bowling Analysis.				
Gunnr. Hansford	9	2	19	5
Gunnr. Caple	9	1	16	4

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

There should be two good games of football at the Happy Valley to-day, for the K.S.L.I. meet the R.G.A. in the final for the United Services League, and the "A" Coy. K.S.L.I. play the South China Athletic, in what is practically the semi-final of the 2nd Division. Whichever of the two last named teams loses it will be out of the running for championship honours. If the Athletic win, they will play the "D" Company next Saturday, and, if they can then obtain a victory, will become champions of the league. If, however, the "A" Company are victorious they will head the league with seventeen points, and will have to await the result of the match "D" Coy. v. South China Athletic.

The position of these three teams at the top of the league at present is:—

Club	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
"D" Coy. K.S.L.I.	9	8	1	0	20	5	15
"A" Coy. K.S.L.I.	9	7	1	1	24	2	15
S. China Ath.	8	6	1	1	11	5	13

With the South China Athletic to play the "A" and "D" Companies to complete all three programmes.

In the first division match the K.S.L.I. are undoubtedly the better team on paper. They have an excellent line of forwards and a very fair defence, and, in addition, have had the advantage of playing together practically all the season, and, consequently, know each other's play. The R.G.A., on the other hand, while they possess probably as sound a defence as any in the colony, have been unable all the season to obtain a satisfactory forward line, and are turning out to-day with what appears to be almost another experimental line of forwards. The men are good individually, however, and may score goals, but the most probable result is a win for the Shropshires by, possibly, a solitary goal, as the gunners' defence is much too good to be penetrated frequently.

As an instance of the glorious uncertainties of the game, it is interesting to recall that the Shropshires at one time gave up all hope of winning this league, and for a couple of games put out what was supposed to be a weak team, reserving their first division players for the Hongkong League, which they seemed tolerably certain of winning. A surprise defeat of the R.G.A. by the Navy, however, followed by a couple of good performances by the so-called second-rate team, resulted in the Shropshires finding themselves with a (Continued at foot of next column.)

## POLICE SERGEANT AND SHIP'S OFFICER.

## CIVIL ACTION PENDING.

In the list at the Hongkong Summary Court yesterday appeared a case in which a ship's officer is summoning a Police Sergeant, and claiming \$1,000. This is a sequel to a police court case in which the plaintiff in the civil proceedings was charged by the defendant with being drunk and disorderly, for which offence he was fined.

The plaintiff is William James Cooper, 3, Saifee Terrace, Nathan Road, Kowloon, second officer of the s.s. *Laertes*, and the defendant is Acting Lance Sergt. McTulloch, of the Hongkong Police Force, stationed at Yammat. The writ states:—"Plaintiff claims from defendant the sum of \$1,000, being damages suffered by the plaintiff on January 20th by the defendant's trespassing upon plaintiff's premises at 3, Saifee Terrace, Na'han Road, Kowloon, and for unlawful arrest, and for assault and battery committed by the defendant upon the plaintiff."

The case was fixed for hearing next week. Mr. Goldring is prosecuting.

## FOR THE SOLDIERS.

## TODAY'S MATINEE.

Our readers are reminded of the special matinee performance to be given by the talented Bandman Opera Company this afternoon, the whole of the proceeds of which are to be devoted to an entertainment fund for His Majesty's Forces in the Colony. The worthiness of this cause need not be commented upon, and another fact which most people in the Colony realise is that incomes of the "Tommys" in our midst do not allow of them indulging in much amusement and relaxation at their own expense. Booking has been very satisfactory, but additional seats will be available if the ordinary seating accommodation does not prove sufficient; and everyone must hope that such will be the case. The Bandman Company have arranged a programme in keeping with the occasion, and it is to be hoped that this, their second, war effort will be as substantially appreciated as the first. Appreciation for men who are doing their "bit" in the great war cannot be too lavishly displayed.

H. E. the General Officer Commanding and Commodore Sandeman have kindly extended their patronage to the entertainment.

Friends of the Fund who cannot be present are not precluded from lending a helping hand; for Messrs. Montrie are prepared to receive any sums to swell the fund after all tickets have been disposed of.

## "THE POLICE RESERVE GAZETTE."

The fourth issue of the Police Reserve Gazette, which has just been circulated, is a particularly entertaining number. There is no doubt that the venture, for which many predicted failure, is proving an unqualified success. The Special Police are obviously men of versatile talents. Practically all the contributions are from members of the Force, and they range from Ghost stories and Spring poems to lessons in the art of advertising and skits upon American journalism, with a few hints from "Aunt Dorothy" to the hairs thrown in. As a consequence, the Gazette makes an irresistible appeal to all classes and tastes. The Special Constable, after reading and chuckling over it at Headquarters, can place it with every confidence in the hands of his wife and children in order that they may devote nappy hours to solving the riddles which "Aunt Dorothy" propounds, or in endeavouring to find a suitable last line in the Limerick competition, so that the master of the household may secure the honour of winning the prize offered. All concerned in the production are to be congratulated. It is undoubtedly the best of the series.

chance to recover their position in the U. S. League, and are now in the final. While failing to defeat a very weak team of the R.G.A., they were knocked out of the Hongkong League, which at one time seemed a foregone conclusion for them.

## TODAY'S MATCHES.

UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.  
K.S.L.I. v. R.G.A.—Club Ground. Kick-off, 5 p.m.  
2ND DIVISION.  
"A" Coy. K.S.L.I. v. South China Athletic. Kick-off, 3.30 p.m.  
TEAM.  
K.S.L.I.—Fitchards; Clayton and Wall; Morris, Williams and Henn; Brad dock, Machin, Pritchards, Jones and Feglow.  
R.G.A.—Garrod, Caple and Dickenson; Gorman, Edgeler and Townsend; Jones, Youngman, Gretton, Clutterbuck and Halls.

## INTIMATIONS

## LANE, CRAWFORD &amp; Co.

## WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A NEW STOCK OF LADIES' SHOES

OUR NOTED FOOTWEAR IS ACKNOWLEDGED THE BEST VALUE IN THE TRADE.

## WHITE CANVAS SHOES

FROM \$6.00 PER PAIR.

## BLACK KID SHOES

FROM \$8.50 PER PAIR.

## THE "WARD" SHOE

A STRONG BLACK GLACE, ONE BAR SHOE WITH 1½ INCH SQUARE HEELS FINISHED WITH RUBBER TIP, SPECIAL VALUE \$6.50 PER PAIR.

THIS IS THE IDEAL SHOE FOR

## HOSPITAL AND HOUSE WEAR

ALL SHOES STOCKED IN HALF SIZES AND TWO FITTINGS.

## MORLEY'S LISLE-THREAD HOSE

IN BLACK AND WHITE.

## LANE, CRAWFORD &amp; Co.

## A.V.C. FINEST OLD LIQUEUR BRANDY.

GUARANTEED 30 YEARS OLD.

## V. D. CLARETS. V. D. SAUTERNES.

## V. D. BURGUNDIES.

Stocked by HONGKONG HOTEL.

Obtainable at LANE, CRAWFORD &amp; Co.

## A. &amp; B. MACKAY'S LIQUEUR WHISKY.

## THE ORIGINAL LIQUEUR WHISKY.

PRICE \$24.00 PER CASE DUTY PAID.

Has a fine mild flavour and a refreshing clean taste.

Obtainable at all Local Stores.

and at LANE, CRAWFORD &amp; Co.

[34-3]

## Wm. Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 346

ALWAYS SOMETHING

NEW IN

## SHIRTS

FOR

DAY OR EVENING WEAR.

IN

ZEPHYR, CAMBRIC AND PRINTS.

They are of a Dependable Quality, being well-cut and made, and allow Perfect Freedom to the Wearer.



INSPECTION INVITED.

PRICES FROM \$3 EACH.



## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

**THE HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Office of the Company, 2, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on TUESDAY, 27th March, 1917, at 12 Noon, for consideration of the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

The SHARE REGISTER and TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 21st to the 27th inst., both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.  
R. M. DYER,  
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1917. [413]

**THE ASSOCIATION OF EXPORTERS AND DEALERS OF HONGKONG.**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the ASSOCIATION OF EXPORTERS AND DEALERS OF HONGKONG will be held on TUESDAY, 27th March, 1917, at 4 p.m. precisely, in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDING for the following purposes:

- (1) To receive the Report and Accounts of the Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1916.
- (2) To elect a New Committee.
- (3) To transact any General Business.

By Order,  
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1917. [411]

**HONGKONG CLUB.**

**NOTICE.**

THE THIRTY-FIRST YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held in the Club House, on THURSDAY, the 29th March, 1917, at 5.30 p.m.

By Order,  
E. DES VŒUX,  
Secretary.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1917. [412]

**WANTED.**

YOUNG MAN is required by Shipping Office as a Stenographer and Typist. For further particulars refer to—

Care of "Daily Press" Office.

[410]

**WANTED.**

A GIRL for Typing and General Office Work. Apply to—

W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.

[405]

**THEATRE ROYAL.**

**SPECIAL MATINEE!**

TO-DAY (SATURDAY),

MARCH 17TH, AT 4.30 P.M.

The MEMBERS of the NEW BANDMAN OPERA COMPANY

will present a

**POT-POURRI ENTERTAINMENT**

in Aid of a FUND to provide

Entertainment during the coming months

for

**MEN OF HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICES**

IN THE COLONY.

The WHOLE of the Gross Proceeds will be

given to this object.

Bookings at MOUTRIE'S.

PRICES... \$3, \$2 & \$1.

BOOK EARLY AND HELP THIS

DESERVING FUND.

**NOTICE.**

THIS IS TO INFORM the General Public that the Underigned is the Sole Proprietor of JOSEPH BROTHERS, Hongkong, and all connection with the Firm carried on at Shanghai under the same name has ceased as from the 1st October, 1916.

EDWARD MENASHI JOSEPH.

Hongkong, 12th March, 1917. [393]

**HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.**

**NOTICE.**

ON and after 12th March, 1917, the hours for the Transaction of Business by the Hongkong Savings Bank will be 10 A.M. to 12 Noon, SATURDAYS included.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,

N. J. STABB,

Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 5th March, 1917. [370]

**NOW READY.**

**THE**

**DIRECTORY**

**AND**

**CHRONICLE**

**FOR**

**CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, INDO-CHINA,**

**PHILIPPINES, ETC.**

**1917**

**FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ISSUE.**

**PRICE:**

Large Edition... \$11.00  
Abridged... 7.00

Orders should be sent at once to the HONGKONG DAILY PRESS, LTD.

## PUBLIC COMPANIES

**GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND REDUCED.**

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, St. George's Buildings, 27th March, 1917, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and declaring a Dividend.

By Order of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1917. [374]

**HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD.**

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the General Managers at 11.30 A.M. on WEDNESDAY, 28th instant, to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1916, and the report of the General Managers.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 28th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1917. [361]

**HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.**

THE FORTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Undersigned at Noon, on WEDNESDAY, the 28th instant.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 28th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1917. [362]

**CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**NOTICE.**

THE THIRTY-NINTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Office of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, on FRIDAY, the 30th instant at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 16th to 30th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1917. [368]

**GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND REDUCED.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from THURSDAY, 1st March, to SATURDAY, 31st March, 1917, both days inclusive.

The return of Capital of \$2.50 per Share will be paid to Shareholders on and after the 15th March, 1917, on presentation of Share Certificates for endorsement.

By Order of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1917. [329]

**HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE immediately after the ANNUAL MEETING to be held on MONDAY, the 26th March, 1917, at 4 p.m., in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

A desire has been expressed that the following Resolution shall be put—

"That Clause 6 of the Rules and Regulations of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE should be amended by the insertion of the word 'British' between the word 'and' and the word 'Members' in the first line thereof."

By Order,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1917. [399]

**HONGKONG POLICE (RESERVE).**

**SERVICE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING.**

H.E. THE GOVERNOR'S CUP.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH, 1917.

Open to any person in the Colony.

Entrance Fee \$1.

(to be used in connection with printing expenses).

Service Rifles. Open Sight.

100 yds. Grouping. 400 yds. Deliberate.

200 " Deliberate. 500 "

300 " 600 "

Printed conditions may be obtained on written application to Chief Inspector H. A. LAMMEY, Headquarters Club, H.K.P.C.

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**NOTICE TO MARINERS.**

ALL OUTGOING and INCOMING STEAMERS and STEAM LAUNCHES are hereby warned that when passing KOLTS WHARVES, which are under construction with divers working, they MUST NOT PASS WITHIN a distance of 200 yards of them and to slow down their speed to 4 knots.

C. W. BECKWITH,

Commander, R.N.

Harbour Master, &c.

Harbour Department,

Hongkong, 16th March, 1917. [382]

## HOUSES TO LET

**TO LET—FURNISHED.**

From May to end of October.

STRAWBERRY HILL, TEN PRAC. Six Rooms, Garden and Tennis Court.

Apply to—

1, Des Vœux Road Central. [188]

**TO LET.**

IMMEDIATE entry. Four very desirable SHOPS situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—

THE MANAGER, Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd., 48, Connaught Road Central. [401]

**TO LET.**

1 NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street.

For rent and other particulars apply to—

H. M. H. NEMAZES, 1 Des Vœux Road. [402]

**TO LET—IMMEDIATELY.**

LARGE OFFICE. Centrally Situated in Queen's Road, fully partitioned and fitted with electric light, telephone and sub. exchange.

Apply—

"X. Y. Z." Office, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [322]

**TO LET—AT THE PEAK**

FURNISHED and newly painted inside, 3, Stewart Terrace.

Apply—

M. E. POLLOCK, Prince's Buildings. [37]

**TO LET.**

NO. 2, ELGIN STREET.

Apply to—

PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING. [102]

**TO LET.**

From 1st May.

OFFICES, 2nd Floor, St. George's Hall.

Apply to—

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO. [39]

**TO LET.**

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.

A FLAT in Humphreys Buildings, Kowloon.

TO LET OR FOR SALE.

KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 58,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.

Apply to—

HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., LTD., Alexandra Buildings. [301]

**TO LET.**

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ONE 104 B.H.P. HORNSBY ACKROYD OIL ENGINE complete with and coupled direct to one 6 K.W. Continuous Current Shunt Wound Dynamo of 50/70 volts with shunt regulator.

Also ONE SWITCHBOARD for ACCUMULATORS, DYNAMO, &c., complete with instruments for 100 Amps.

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**NOTICE.**

WE beg to inform the Public and to those whom it may concern that Mr. N. EMANUEL ALLAYA has This Day taken over our Business of Storekeepers, &c., including the Goodwill, and will henceforth carry on the said Business under the same style or Firm name, and our interest and responsibility in the said concern will cease on and after that date.

THE FARSEE TRADING CO., Proprietors.

Canton, 1st March, 1917. [371]

**NOTICE.**

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

[38]

**NOTICE.**

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

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## INTIMATION

**WATSON'S**

**OLD BROWN**

**BRANDY**

**E**

**QUALITY.**



**25 YEARS IN WOOD.**

**A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,**

**WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.**

TELEPHONE 618.

[12]

**BIRTH.**

Ross—At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on March 15th, the wife of L. C. Parker Ross of a son.

Hongkong Office: 104, Des Vœux Road, C. London Office: 181, Fleet Street, E.C.

**The Daily Press.**

HONGKONG 17TH MARCH, 1917.

**THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR.**

Little sympathy will be wasted upon the type of "Conscientious Objector" represented by those who were concerned in the recent conspiracy against the life of Mr. Lloyd George. By whatever motives they may have been impelled, the actions have proved them to be criminal fanatics whose continued liberty would constitute a real danger to the State. There are others, however, whose patriotism cannot be questioned, who, by some process of reasoning which appears obscure to the majority of men, do conscientiously find it impossible to take an active part in the war, and their lot now is unquestionably a hard one. The task is to tell the genuine from the false, to separate the wolves who want to go about in sheep's clothing from the real lambs. As long as the law recognises the right of the conscientious objector to refuse to bear arms it is useless to call him names. After all, if his views found general acceptance there would be no wars. He may be a member of the Society of Friends and have held pacifist views all his life; he will have to suffer as much agony of mind as any man who finds himself opposed to popular opinion and popular opinion runs very strong in war time. Recently the Central China Post published extracts from the letter of a conscientious objector in New Zealand. It was not pleasant reading—firstly, because the writer was so obviously wrong; and secondly, because it is not good to see a man crucified for his convictions. To be

cut off from all employment and be made the victim of a kind of "starvation war" is not a pleasant experience, but it can be borne. What the true conscientious objector must find much more difficult to bear is the scorn and contempt of his fellow men. Yet, no doubt, he has a certain pride in his beliefs; even the martyr is not without consolation. If he finished under the mental torture, or tried to avoid it, he would be on the way to conversion. There is doubtless a certain amount of gratification in feeling different from—and, therefore, better than—other men, and it is into this pitfall of conceit that the conscientious objector is most likely to fall. Even the New Zealander whose letter is quoted in the Post seems not to have escaped this fate altogether when he speaks of the "false and foolish ideals" of those in disagreement with him. The tendency to preach is, perhaps, inevitable, but one could wish for respect in the choice of words. After all, perhaps, silence would be best. The people whom he criticises are giving their lives for "their false and foolish ideals," and while it would be unfair to charge the conscientious objector with a too sacred regard for his existence, we may at least ask him to be silent as to the mental attitude of those who give so much. This brings up the fallacy at the back of the Conscientious Objector's reasoning. It is not because he regards both sides as being equally wrong or equally right that he will not fight; it is because he believes fighting is wrong. Presumably, however, he must hold some views as to right and wrong; he must have some opinion as to whether it was right or wrong of Germany to invade Belgium, a country against which she had no quarrel and which certainly had no quarrel with her. If he holds the view that Germany was right in so acting then his objections are not entirely conscientious, but are tinged with political feeling. If he holds the view that Germany was wrong, how does he expect the truth to be upheld? Truth is mighty and will prevail, but it prevails, not because it is never beaten, but because there is always someone ready to champion it. It is a sentimental absurdity to suppose that truth conquers *per se*. It has to be fought for, and fought for many times, before it prevails. We may regret that the battle for truth should be a physical one; we may regret the young lives that are being



# THE WAR.

## BRITISH STILL ADVANCING.

### SOME FRENCH SUCCESSES.

### BRITAIN'S WAR BILL.

### GERMANS LEAVING AMERICA.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF BAGHDAD.

#### Franco-Belgian Front.

#### LATEST CABLES.

#### (THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### GERMANS STILL RETREATING.

#### BRITISH ACTIVITY.

LONDON, March 15th.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The area of the enemy's withdrawal has been extended southwards. We have occupied trenches on a two and a half miles front southward of St. Pierre Vaast Wood and to the north of Salliel.

We beat off strong counter-attacks to the east of Achiet le Petit and improved the position in this neighbourhood.

The enemy entered trenches to the south-eastward of Arras and a few British are missing. Another raiding party was repulsed to the north-east of Neuville St. Vaast.

#### ENEMY'S WRECKED FRONT.

#### SOME FRENCH RAIDS.

PARIS, March 15th.

A communiqué states:—Between the Avre and the Oise, after after violent artillery preparation, we raided several points of the enemy's wrecked front, reaching the third line at one point, and occupying a wood to the depth of half a mile; also taking prisoners. A bombing fight at Maison, in Champagne, resulted in our possessing and occupying several communication trenches.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### FRENCH COUP DE MAIN.

#### ACTIVE ARTILLERYING.

PARIS, March 15th.

A communiqué states:—We made a coup de main in the region of Moulinoustouvent, to the east of the Oise, and took prisoners. There were several German attempts on our small posts in the neighbourhood of Vinje, west of Navarin, and in the Argonne, but they failed. There has been active artillerying in the region of Maisons de Champagne, but no infantry work.

#### GERMAN CLAIM.

LONDON, March 15th.

A wireless German official message states:—Our destructive fire stopped French attacks to the south of Ripont.

#### The Balkans.

#### LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### BRITISH AIR REPRISALS.

SALONIKA, March 15th.

British airmen bombed German air camps at Hudova as a reprisal for the German airmen bombing a hospital at Vertekop, killing two British nurses.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### FRENCH ADVANCE AT MONASTIR.

#### AND A GERMAN COMMENT.

LONDON, March 15th.

A wireless German official message states:—A French advance on both banks of Lake Prespa, to the north of Monastir, was another costly failure, this being repulsed. There have been minor Entente attacks between the Cerna and Lake Doiran.

#### IN MACEDONIA.

#### AUSTRIAN LOSSES.

PARIS, March 15th.

A Macedonian communiqué states:—There has been great patrol and artillery activity on the Monastir front. The Italians advanced near Hill 1,050.

An Austrian attack between Lakes Prespa and Malak was repulsed with loss, the Austrians leaving prisoners.

#### BRITISH LINE ADVANCED.

LONDON, March 15th.

Reuter's correspondent at the Salonika headquarters states that the British line south-west of Doiran has been advanced a thousand yards over a front of 3,500 yards, bringing the trenches, in places, to within a hundred yards of the enemy's. The operation, including digging themselves in and fixing of entanglements, was carried out at night time. The near line shortens the front by straightening the salient at Horse Shoe Hill, which has always been exposed. Secondly, it strengthens the defences by an extra line of trenches, and, thirdly, it facilitates future raids upon the enemy.

#### Russian Front.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### RUSSIAN SUCCESS.

#### OCCUPATION OF KERMANSHAH.

LONDON, March 14th.

The Russians have taken Kermanshah.

LONDON, March 15th.

A wireless Russian official message states:—The enemy attacked at night and occupied a portion of the trenches south-west of Brzeshan. Our counter-attack drove out the enemy with great losses.

We are pressing the retreating Turks in the direction of Sakis, approaching Baku.

We occupied Kermanshah after an obstinate two days battle. The pursuit of the Turks continues.

#### The Near East.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### WRITING ON THE WALL.

#### AMERICAN COMMENT ON BAGHDAD.

New York, March 15th.

The World states that the fall of Baghdad is the handwriting on the wall for the Turkish Empire.

The Herald says that it is the beginning of the end of Prussianism.

#### Italian Front

#### EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### ITALIAN SUCCESS.

Rome, March 15th.

A semi-official message states that the Italians have re-occupied Bucamer, on the west coast of Tripoli.

#### General.

#### LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### GERMANS LEAVING AMERICA.

#### EXODUS TO MEXICO.

LONDON, March 15th.

Reuter learns that reports are reaching London to the effect that a large number of Germans are leaving the United States for Mexico.

#### NEW FRENCH WAR MINISTER.

PARIS, March 15th.

Admiral Lacaze, Marine Minister, has been appointed War Minister pro tem.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### BRITAIN'S WAR BILL.

#### ANOTHER VOTE OF CREDIT.

LONDON, March 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law, in introducing a supplementary vote of credit of £24,000,000 in respect of the financial year ending March 31st, said that it included the payment of £18,000,000 to the Australian Government for wheat, which the Treasury had expected to make in the next financial year; also £23,000,000 in advances to the Allies and the Dominions. This did not mean that such advances were going to be bigger than anticipated; they were simply paying money now instead of in the next financial year. The Munitions and Shipping Controllers' acquisition of additional ships accounted for the balance of £23,000,000.

Mr. Bonar Law, speaking in regard to munitions, pointed out that the necessity for payment now was a satisfactory indication that deliveries were being made much more rapidly than those of the past on which the Treasury based their estimates. Time payment was not desirable as it would indicate the respective amounts allotted to munitions and shipping, but arrangements regarding ships had also been concluded earlier than anticipated. The total votes of credit for the financial year would thus be £2,010,000,000, and the total since the war began, not including the vote already made in respect of next year was £2,702,000,000.

#### FRENCH MINISTER FOR WAR.

#### DESIGNS AFTER A SCENE.

PARIS, March 15th.

M. Lyautey, Minister for War, resigned after a debate on military aviation in the Chamber.

M. Lyautey objected to the debate, and refused to discuss the matters raised, as being prejudicial to national defence.

LATER.

The Chamber first discussed aviation in secret, and then publicly considered various resolutions, including one of expressing confidence in the Government to secure the closest co-ordination of the various air services and to intensify all forms of aerial warfare.

M. Lyautey said it would be preferable to await the result of the measures taken before debating, and he refused to pursue the subject.

This remark occasioned loud protests that M. Lyautey had insulted Parliament, and the tumult only ceased when the secret session was resumed.

M. Lyautey was absent from the subsequent public sitting, when M. Briand accepted, and the Chamber unanimously voted, the aforesaid resolution.

It was subsequently announced that M. Lyautey had resigned.

#### OFFICERS' CHILDREN.

#### MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE.

LONDON, March 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Forster stated that arrangements had been made for enabling officers below the rank of Major, and of equivalent ranks in the Navy, to obtain maintenance allowance for children.

#### FAIR PRICES.

#### TEA, COFFEE AND COCOA.

LONDON, March 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bathurst stated that Lord Davenport, Food Controller, was consulting with the leading representatives of the tea, coffee and cocoa trades with a view to securing a distribution at fair prices.

#### DESPERATE SITUATION IN GERMANY.

LONDON, March 15th.

Reuter is informed that despatches just received in London from an unimpeachable source indicate that the situation in Germany is becoming "daily more desperate," and the position depicted is of the blackest.

#### INTRIGUE IN AMERICA.

#### HINDU STUDENT AND VON PAPEN.

New York, March 15th.

An Indian named Gupta, a Hindu student of Columbia University, has been bailed out for \$5,000, he being charged with conspiring with von Papen to organise a military expedition against India. It is stated that von Papen hugely paid Gupta to go to Japan in connection with the project.

#### RAW COTTON.

#### RESULTS OF PROHIBITION.

LONDON, March 15th.

It is pointed out that the prohibition of the export of raw cotton, which was intended to save tonnage, will cause a suspension of the re-exports of Egyptian cotton to the United States, which amounted to 67,574 bales out of 95,933 bales exported in the ten weeks ending the 8th inst.

#### HOLLAND AND A BRITISH ARMED MERCHANTMAN.

LONDON, March 15th.

In the House of Commons, evidently in connection with the *Princess Melita*, and armed British merchantman which put into the Hook of Holland for water and was ordered out in half an hour, Lord Robert Cecil stated that the Imperial Government was communicating with Holland regarding her refusal to allow defensively armed British merchantmen to use Dutch ports.

#### DARDANELLES REPORT.

#### STATEMENT TO BE MADE.

LONDON, March 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law announced that Mr. Asquith will make a statement regarding the Dardanelles report on the 20th inst. A small Government committee, including Mr. Asquith, is at present considering the excited portions of the report with a view to their publication.

#### BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

LONDON, March 15th.

The increases in exports during February totalled £951,704, and the increases in imports totalled £3,012,322, compared with February last year.

#### GENERAL VON FALKENHAYN.

#### MUCH SPECULATION.

AMSTERDAM, March 15th.

It is learned from an authoritative source that General von Falkenhayn and his staff have arrived at Tirmont, and there is much speculation in connection with this.

#### EXPORT OF COTTON.

LONDON, March 15th.

The Foreign Office has informed the Liverpool Cotton Association that the Government has decided to prohibit the export of cotton from the United Kingdom except with a licence.

#### BEER VERSUS FOOD.

LONDON, March 15th.

A Press Bureau announcement states that Mr. Prothero, President of the Board of Agriculture, has circularised the hop growers recommending the reduction of half the acreage, which is sufficient for the year's brewing, and to substitute this for potatoes and vegetables.

#### SILVER.

LONDON, March 15th.

Silver is quoted at 30s. It is being more freely offered, but not demanded. The market is quiet.

#### OBITUARY.

#### SIR GEORGE CHETWYND.

LONDON, March 15th.

The death is announced of Sir George Chetwynd.

#### SIR WILLIAM ADAMSON.

The death is also announced of Sir William Adamson, C.M.G.

[The late Sir William Adamson was formerly a merchant in the Straits Settlements, and was for many years resident at Singapore. On several occasions he was a member of the Singapore Legislative Council. He was a director of the P. and O. Company.]

#### SINKING OF AMERICAN SHIP.

#### SOME PIRATE ACTS.

LONDON, March 15th.

The pirates, hauled down the *Algonquin's* flag before sinking her, and jeered at the men in the boats. When the latter asked to be towed, the pirates replied that they were too busy.

#### SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON.

#### GOING TO THE FRONT.

SYDNEY, March 15th.

Sir Ernest Shackleton has arrived. He states that he is going to the front.

#### CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

#### CHINA AND GERMANY.

#### JAPAN AND THE BOXER INDEMNITY.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

SHANGHAI, March 16th.

The German Minister to Peking has been taken ill, and the time of his leaving Peking has therefore been postponed. Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, has stated that the Boxer indemnity has been reckoned in this year's Budget; therefore, Japan cannot postpone the time of payment.

At Shanghai yesterday certain officials and merchants held meetings with the object of considering the position of diplomatic affairs after the severance of relations with Germany.

#### FARM OR OFFICE WORK FOR CLERGY.

#### THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY'S SUGGESTIONS.

The Bishop of Salisbury is preparing a scheme by which clergy of the diocese, which consists of the counties of Wilts and Dorset, may undertake work of a national but non-combatant character. In a letter to the clergy of the diocese he says:—

In the matter of substitution the clergy should be prepared to take their part, curtailing, without neglecting, their ministerial work. For country clergy agricultural labour in some form offers to those who live in the midst of agricultural interests a suitable and practical opportunity. For others weekday work in offices and business houses, or perhaps postal and transport duties, thereby releasing others for more direct and military service, should, I think, be possible, but that the clergy as a whole, with, of course, exceptions on the ground of age and infirmity, should offer themselves for some share in the great scheme of National Service I am profoundly convinced. That their doing so will involve some considerable interference with their ordinary work is of course inevitable. To facilitate such steps as are necessary to the utmost of my power. Some duties, of course, cannot be allowed to suffer. The Sacraments must be administered—worship must be offered. The Word must be preached. The sick cannot be neglected. The children must be cared for—but with these exceptions other calls must give way. Weekday services in some cases omitted or curtailed; ordinary visitation, not of the sick but the whole, postponed—some parochial organizations are inevitable, and should be made in consultation with the archdeacons or myself. Small parishes may for the present have to be worked by neighbouring clergy. The unworthy reluctance to attend another church than our own and the unfortunate spirit of rivalry or unfriendliness that sometimes prevents this must be put aside. It may be as a result of it all that there may be more brotherhood amongst us, less parochialism, and a wider view of what it means to serve God in this Church and realm. I am prepared to appeal for the help of the laity in the churches and parishes within far wider limits than under normal conditions. We are arranging for a small advisory committee in every archdeaconry, which will report to and be in close touch with myself.

#### AN ADMIRALTY LETTER.

#### DEMAND FOR HEARING IN CAMERA RESENTED BY COURT.

Sir James Woodhouse, chairman of the War Losses Commission, refusing to hear in camera a claim regarding a vessel chartered by the Admiralty, said: "We have received from the Admiralty a communication couched in language which we much resent, demanding an assurance beforehand that the case shall be heard in camera. We will not tolerate communications of the kind made from either the Admiralty or any other Department." He added that any application made in the public interest and in a proper way would be considered.

Sir Gordon Hewart, Solicitor-General, replied that he was not only surprised but grieved to hear the chairman's remarks. "I can only imagine," he said, "that there has been some great misapprehension. At the moment I do not feel inclined to say more."

Replying later to a request by Sir Gordon Hewart for the case to be heard in camera, the chairman said the sole issue appeared to be the value of a vessel. The case was then heard on these terms.

#### INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS OF HONGKONG.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting in connection with the above Institution was held last night in the Reading Room. Mr. K. E. Greig, president, presided over a good attendance.

#### ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said he thought they would agree with him that the latter were particularly satisfactory. They had made very considerable profit, and the Institute was in a very satisfactory financial position. A considerable saving had been effected by their not having an European secretary.

Mr. A. G. Gordon seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

#### OFFICE BEARERS.

The following office-bearers were appointed:—President—Mr. J. Macdonald; proposed by Mr. K. E. Greig, seconded by B. L. Frost. Vice-President—Messrs. W. Budge and J. Elliott; proposed by Mr. J. McCubbin, seconded by Mr. A. Davidson. Hon. Treasurer—Mr. A. Stalker; proposed by Mr. B. L. Frost, seconded by Mr. W. Budge. Hon. Secretary—Mr. S. Baker; proposed by Mr. K. E. Greig, seconded by Mr. A. G. Gordon. Hon. Librarian—Mr. J. Elliott; proposed by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. R. Hunter. Committee—Messrs. Greig, Budge, McCubbin, Davidson, Graham, Harman, Frost and Hunter.

On the motion of Mr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Richardson, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring president, Mr. Greig.

#### HONGKONG AS A SHIPBUILDING CENTRE.

The retiring CHAIRMAN, in the course of an address, referred to the importance of Hongkong as a shipbuilding centre. He said that a large number of vessels, particularly for our own Government, were under construction in our local yards, including large ocean-going steamers. He was sure they were only the forerunners of many others. He was not exaggerating in the slightest degree when he said that Hongkong was capable of turning out anything in the way of ships and marine engines necessary for commerce. They were particularly busy in this department at present, and it was up to them to see that what they produced was absolutely the best, and they as members of that Institute, and being connected with that branch of national industry, should give their best attention to the work turned out, especially that portion of it which was going to England and to Europe, where it would be critically examined. It was such work that would bring orders to the port. He was sure that if they acted on those lines, and gave particular attention to the quality of the work turned out, there was little doubt that within the next ten years Hongkong would probably occupy the most prominent place for shipbuilding among the British Colonies (Hear, hear). They were already ahead of the other British Colonies, and it was up to them to do better still. That Institute could do a great deal in the attainment of that object. It existed to bring engineers and shipbuilders together for discussion and interchange of views, and it would be lacking in its duty if it did not take a serious view of this matter and lend all its power and influence towards the attainment of the ambition he had indicated.

#### A WAR DONATION.

Continuing, the Chairman said that they in Hongkong had suffered very little from the effects of the terrible war that was still raging. They, as an Institute, had had a very prosperous year, and he thought they should utilise some of their prosperity to help those who had suffered, and would still suffer through the war. He therefore proposed that the Institute donate a sum of \$500 to the St. Dunstan's Hospital for Blind Soldiers and Sailors—one of the most worthy and deserving movements for the alleviation of the sufferings of those who had met with disaster in doing their "bit" at the front on our behalf. (Applause.)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Reid and carried with acclamation. The CHAIRMAN also mentioned that quite a number of their members had left them for the front. Mr. Robson, as they knew, had been killed at Gallipoli. Mr. Grayfield was on active service at the front, and Messrs. Chubb, Dickie, W. Smith, and Somers, had offered their services and been accepted. Captain James had also borne his full share of war work on the *Titanic*. They wished them all well, and considered it an honour to have such men members of the Institute. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN also stated that there were two gold medals (given by Mr. Gordon and Mr. Jack) and a silver and a bronze medal, for the readers of papers to the members of the Institute. This should result in more of these papers being provided in the ensuing year.

The CHAIRMAN afterwards presented the prizes won in the billiard handicap, as follows:—1, Mr. Brown; 2, Mr. Ormiston; highest break, Mr. McCubbin. It was intimated that Mr. Reid had offered to provide the first prize in next year's billiard handicap.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Graham, terminated the proceedings.







## FAMINE WITH PLENTY IN RUSSIA.

## THE PROBLEM OF DISTRIBUTION.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT TO "THE TIMES" IN RUSSIA.]

Russia is experiencing famine in the midst of plenty. This may be paradoxical, but it is also the truth. The dictionary defines famine as "a scarcity of food; a general want of provisions." No definition could fit the facts more appropriately. The scarcity of food, the general want of provisions, is the one thing felt, the one thing talked of throughout the land. In the home circle, in society, in tram and train, in office and factory, in a word, everywhere where people meet, it is the one subject of conversation.

Last summer the poorer people took up their positions outside the Petrograd municipal meat shops at 10 o'clock in the evening. The sun had hardly set over the Elagin Island, where fashion and wealth enjoyed their ease, and the wondrous of the white nights, before the poor, basket in hand, began their weary vigil. Some waited 10 and 12 hours for a morsel of meat, which, in no case, exceeded three Russian pounds. Since then we have seen queues become the rule—for meat, for bread, for milk, for vegetables, for sugar people wait in long "tails." Rich and poor participate in them, the latter in person, the former by proxy through their servants. The police forbid the assembling of these "tails" before 8 a.m., but promptitude has to be observed if provisions are to be obtained. And now, with the thermometer sometimes at 20 below zero Fahrenheit, people have to wait hours outside each shop to get daily necessities.

The difficulty of making an inadequate railway system stand the double strain of ordinary distribution to the population and the tremendous special calls arising out of the war might be some sort of an excuse for those prevailing conditions in Petrograd and Moscow. But it is the same throughout the country. The writer of this article saw at 5 o'clock in the morning on a day in last November, a "tail" of more than 1,500 people outside the co-operative shop for railway employees at Kozloff, in the government of Tambov, waiting for white flour. Kozloff had then been without flour for 10 days, though quite half a dozen of the largest flour-mills in Russia are within a 250 miles radius of the town.

## LACK OF ORGANIZATION.

The chief thing Russia is suffering from to-day is the want of organization and co-ordination in all measures pertaining to the food supply. Probably there is sufficient food in the country to feed the population for the next two years. The one problem to solve is how to distribute it. Here are a couple of instances well known to the writer. One and a half million pounds (94,100 tons) of rye are lying in the elevators of T— station, less than 250 miles away by direct railway line is a rye flour-mill at D—, capacity 30,000 pounds of flour per day. The mill, though working exclusively for Army requirements, is standing still for want of grain. A mill with large stocks of grain situated within two miles of an oil-field was unable to work for more than a month because it was impossible to obtain cistern-cars for bringing the oil fuel from the wells to the mill. These are just ordinary examples of what is occurring every day. More glaring instances could be multiplied *ad infinitum*.

All necessities of life have risen, except tea, from two to 10 times their former peace prices. Butter, for instance, is eight times its former retail price, having risen from 40 kopeks (10d.) to three roubles and 50 kopeks (7s. 2d.) per 14 oz.-lb. Mutton is 7½ times dearer, now costing 1r. 50k. (3s.) per 14 oz.-lb. Bread of varying quality, instead of the beautiful white colour of uniform grade for which Russia was famed, costs 2½ times more than formerly. In fact the householder's expenses, with all luxuries cut out, with every effort to economize, are now about 4½ times what they were in normal peace days.

The fixing of maximum prices for certain necessities, such as beef, bread, and milk, for retail distribution has not had the full effect desired. While it has kept prices down to a certain extent, it has undoubtedly diminished the supplies. Beef is obtainable only after so many formalities have been complied with that the well-to-do have cut it out of their household requirements. White bread is in greater supply, but it is only to be had by waiting several hours in a "tail." The same applies to milk. These are the prevailing conditions in Petrograd and Moscow. In provincial towns beef is more easily obtained and at a lower price. White bread appears on sale only from time to time, while milk is extremely difficult to procure. This latter fact is due to the dependence of provincial towns on supplies from peasants, who now either have no cows, or consume the milk themselves, while the capitals are supplied by large estates which have escaped up to the present the periodical requisitions of cattle now general throughout Russia.

## FEEDING OF THE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE.

The system, such as it is, that has grown up in dealing with the food problem goes back to the first weeks of the war, when the Ministry of Agriculture was given the necessary powers and credits for feeding the Army in the field. A special Department was created *ad hoc*—viz., the *Okhraniye Zashchity*, the Department of Provisions. It was divided into two sub-departments, one dealing with meat, fats, and hay, the other with flour, corn, vegetables, etc. Until July, 1915, its operations were confined east of a line roughly drawn from Petrograd to Nikolaioff on the Black Sea. After that date its operations were

## BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIPS TO BE SUNK.

## REPRISALS THREATENED.

In reply to Germany's announcement that our hospital ships engaged on the Channel routes are to be treated as warships, the British Foreign Office has issued the following statement:—

The German Government announce that "they have conclusive proof that in several instances enemy hospital ships have often been misused for the transport of munitions and troops."

They also state that they have placed these proofs, through diplomatic channels, before the British and French Governments, and have, at the same time, declared that traffic of hospital ships on the military routes for the forces fighting in France and Belgium, within a line drawn between Flamborough Head and Terschelling on the one hand and from Ushant to Land's End on the other, will no longer be tolerated.

His Majesty's Government have received no such communication through diplomatic channels, or otherwise, from the German Government, as is alleged, and they most emphatically deny that British hospital ships have been used for the transport of munitions and troops, or in any way contrary to The Hague Convention for the adaptation of the principles of the Geneva Convention to maritime war.

Under the Convention belligerents have the right to search hospital ships, and the German Government have therefore, an obvious remedy in case of suspicion—a remedy which they have never utilized.

From the German Government's statement that hospital ships will no longer be tolerated within the limits mentioned, only one conclusion can be drawn—namely, that it is the intention of the German Government to add yet other and more unspeakable crimes against law and humanity to the long list which disgraces their record.

In these circumstances His Majesty's Government have requested the United States Government to inform the German Government that his Majesty's Government have decided that if the threat is carried out, reprisals will immediately be taken by the British authorities concerned.

extended west of the line. The Army Intendency, which had previously been the purchasing authority in this district, now became a purely distributing organization. The Department of Provisions has borne the whole burden of supplying the Army in the field since July, 1915.

As time went on the deficiency in provisioning the civil population increased. The Ministry of Trade and Industry made some attempts to consider the question. Committees were appointed, but there the matter rested. Now its efforts have completely ceased. The Ministry of the Interior also entered into the business. It tried to obtain powers to feed the "rear" on the same lines as the Ministry of Agriculture works in feeding the Army. There were even rumours, a month or six weeks ago, that M. Protopopoff was likely to succeed in obtaining control of the Department of Provisions and the whole business of supplying food to the Army as well as to the civil population. The storm of indignation thus aroused probably prevented this scheme from being carried out.

## DEPARTMENTAL FRICITION.

During 1915 the Ministry of the Interior issued an order to Governors to devote themselves to the food question and to delegate all ordinary administration to their vice-Governors. From this time onwards each province has had its own regulations, mostly at variance with its neighbours. Only one rule was universally applied: that no food of any description could be exported out of one province to another without the permit of the exporting province's Governor. The confusion of such a regulation can be understood better if we could imagine the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire forbidding food to be sent out of his county to either, say, Yorkshire or Cheshire.

It becomes increasingly difficult from now onwards to follow the regulations applicable to food. In each province we have two sets of authorities as represented by the delegates of the Ministry of Agriculture and the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior. Friction arose all along the line, but the delegates of the Ministry of Agriculture had the advantage, because they could always plead that their work was the more important as it concerned the Army in the field. With each succeeding month the scarcity became more apparent. The authorities were faced with an increasing demand from all over the country, not only for food, but also for necessary commodities, such as kerosene, soap, etc. And it should be clearly understood that these demands are increasing and will continue to increase all the time.

## DISLOCATION OF THE RAILWAYS.

We have heard much of the breakdown in transport. A glance at the map of Russia is sufficient to convince anyone of the inadequacy of railway communications. Yet throughout the war the railways have supplied the Army with all that is needed or was available. This shows some organization; but it was done at the expense of starving traffic to the capitals and large provincial towns. With thorough, or even partially, efficient organization the great towns and manufacturing centres could have been supplied with all necessities in sufficient quantities if ordinary care had been taken in the use of goods trucks. The useless mileage covered by goods cars is a grave contributory cause to the general state of dislocation. If this were eliminated, the saving made would go a long way towards making up the deficiency in transport, and would go a still longer way in helping to solve the problem of food scarcity generally.

## TAXATION OF CAPITAL.

## VIEWS OF MR. G. BERNARD SHAW.

In a letter to *The Times* recently Mr. George Bernard Shaw wrote:—

In my former communication I mentioned that the notion of taxing capital generally, though illusory, was reasonable compared to the existing practice of taxing two citizens with precisely the same income, and exacting from one a bearable percentage of that income whilst compelling the other to pay the whole of it twice over. This remark seems to have conveyed to some of your correspondents, including even my new disciple, Mr. Marriott, that I regard a levy on capital as absolutely reasonable. I do not even regard it as possible. Mr. Marriott is quite right in his contention that it would disappear by depreciation in the process. But there is something more fundamental in that phenomenon than mere depreciation; and since there seems to be some danger that an attempt at it may be made, either directly or in the guise of what is called taxation of values (land values, for example), I had better try to make the situation even clearer than Mr. Marriott has left it.

There is one thing that the most energetic Government of practical business men cannot do even if its omission means defeat in the field; and that is, take from a citizen within the space of a financial year what he does not possess and cannot procure because it does not exist and cannot within that period be produced. I take that to be self-evident.

Now let me ask: What is a millionaire capitalist? Many people think he is a man with a million pounds in his pocket. He is not; he is only a man with 250,000 a year. Tax his million at the current rate of 5s. in the pound income-tax plus 3s. 6d. super-tax, and the collector will demand from him more than eight times his entire income for the year—three hundred thousand odd pounds. He will simply reply, "I haven't got it."

But the practical man of business will stand no nonsense of that kind. He will say, "You haven't got it; but you can get it. All you have to do is to instruct your stockbroker to sell your income of 250,000 a year, and he will get you a million for it before you can say Jack Robinson."

Fantastic as the operation seems, it is not impossible under certain conditions. The first is that the millionaire's income must have been so widely distributed that he can cut out without throwing upon the market a huge block of shares, in any one concern; a condition that would checkmate most of our industrial millionaires. The second is that all the other millionaires and investors generally are going on just as usual, buying and selling neither more nor less than the average. But this is just what would not happen as the result of a general tax on capital. All the other capitalists would be selling out at the same moment as the millionaire, and the consequences would be not merely depreciation, but zero, a total disappearance of the capital values owing to the fact that all the capitalists would be trying simultaneously to sell to one another, not the existing produce on which they were living for the year, but the as yet non-existent produce of next year and many succeeding years as well. Now, even in a world which lives as ours does, mostly from hand to mouth, it may be possible, as an isolated transaction, to sell 250,000 worth of the wheat or coal or hardware of 1915 to a very rich man, because he can afford to wait for it. But you cannot put your hand on the entire harvest and output of that year in 1917, 1918 for immediate consumption at the front. Yet that is exactly what a tax on capital would attempt. It is flatly impossible.

Within certain rather narrow limits you can defer consumption by tightening your belt. You cannot anticipate consumption on any terms. The wheat must be grown and the bread baked before you can eat it and fight on it. At most you can borrow spare wheat from the current harvest of the neutrals. You cannot borrow wheat that is not yet sown or grown from anybody.

What we call a capitalist is simply a person for whom we have agreed to earmark, year after year, a certain share of our national income in consideration of his having deferred consumption of part of his income at some past period when we needed the spare money for starting elaborately equipped industries. For a while his contributions to the representation of machines and steel rails and so forth; but they soon wear out, and have to be renewed out of the income of the concern; all that is left of his advance being his claim on that income. The fact that now and then he can sell his claim to X for as much as he can, or perhaps more than, it cost him, and that X may, as an isolated case under pressure peculiar to himself, sell it to Y, and Y to Z, and Z to A, and so on, until it reaches the hands of a hundred fresh individual investors, does not multiply it by a hundred nor alter the fact that it remains a claim on the future and not, except as to the current year, a body of immediately consumable goods. In other words, you must tax income because there is nothing but income to tax. The depreciation foreseen by Mr. Marriott would be the outward and visible sign of the discovery that "Where there is nothing the King loses his rights."

The point is one of pressing importance, because the war has driven us into a phase of collectivist activity which we have confided to a great extent to experienced men of individualist business. Now it happens that collectivism has always been one of the hobbies of experienced men of business who have made large fortunes. From Robert Owen to Joseph Pels, a long string of them might be named. A great deal was expected from their practical good sense and knowledge of men and affairs; but the truth is that in collectivism they were all incorrigible Utopian failures, with the single exception of William Morris, who was a poet forced into business by the inadequacy of the people who had devoted their lives to it. We already see how the practical man of business, having experience of the fact that an economy can be effected in a counting-house by cutting down the office boy's joy rides, infers that a public economy can be effected by hampering the incorporation of the whole nation at a moment when facilities of transport both for men and goods has reached a value that would

## SUBMARINE MENACE.

## OPTIMISTIC SHIPPING MAGNATE.

Sir Owen C. Philipps, M.P., K.C.M.G., speaking at Crews recently, referred to the German submarine campaign. The Germans appeared to think, he said, that they were going to win the war by interfering with our food ships. The submarine menace must not be lightly regarded. As a shipowner he might tell them that his company had 300 valuable vessels constantly in and out of the danger zone, and while they had suffered the loss of many fine ships, he was not at all disposed to take a panicky or despondent view. The Germans hoped to cut down our mercantile fleet, but he could tell them that while in July, 1914, the total gross tonnage of ships under the British flag amounted to 30,593,000 tons, in July, 1916, the tonnage was 30,463,000 tons. In other words after two years of war, the total net reduction of British tonnage was 59,825 tons. It would take a very long time at this rate of progress to destroy the British mercantile marine. The company of which he was the chairman was the first to arm voluntarily their ships. He did not believe this would alarm passengers.

## UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

The following is a list of unclaimed telegrams lying in the Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Company's office at Hongkong:—

Address	From
Abdo la C.	Rangoon
Aljook 162, Que-nd Rd., W. Calcutta	Calcutta
Chengshai, c/o Yen Kee, 374	Singapore
Wing L. S. S.	Shanghai
Craddock Antiochus	Chong
Man Company	Panama
Fede io	Christchurch
Empire Hongkong Hotel	Shanghai
Horobin, Hongkong Hotel	Shanghai
Keping c/o Keng-wahong	Penang
Leyan roller	Manila
S. S. S. S.	Samsong

The following unclaimed telegrams are lying in the Great Northern Telegraph Company's office at Hongkong:—

Address	From
Brashear, Hongkong Hotel	Manila
Ah Kung, Sinking Men	Shanghai
Hotel	Shanghai
Chengshai, Lian-shen	Shanghai
Chengshai, Lian-shen	Shanghai
Kinshai	Kobe

## CHURCH SERVICES.

St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, 4th Sunday in Lent, 14th March, 1917. Holy Communion (7.50 a.m.) Matins, 11 a.m. Responses, Feriat; Venite; Tuckey; Psalm, Barnaby, Feltton and Barnaby; Te Deum, Wood, Smart and Tuckey; Jubilate, King (12th morning); Anthem, "To God on high, Mendelssohn; Hymns, 187. God save the King; F. S. Psalm 91, verses 1, 2, 3, 10 and 17 in unison; Psalm 91, verses 1, 2, 3, 10 and 17 in unison. Holy Communion (12 Noon). Responses, Feriat; Psalm, 66 (16th morning); Magnificat, Dupuis (7th morning); Nunc Dimittis, Jon-s (25th morning); Hymns, 1 (1370), 3 (1780) and 27.

St. Paul's Church, West Point, Sunday, 18th March: Holy Communion 8 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11 a.m. Preacher, Rev. E. W. L. Martin.

Union Church, Kowloon Road, Sunday, 18th March, Sunday Service, Morning Service at 11. Hymns, 18 59 39 and 50. Evening Services at 6. Hymns, 36, 21, 18, 197 and 198. Preacher, Rev. J. K. Macdonald.

First Church of Christ Scientists, Macdonald Road, Sunday, 11.15 a.m. Wednesday, 5.30 p.m.

probably justify us in doubling the number of trains and abolishing fares. This pseudo-practicality is precisely of the kind that may lead its possessors to conclude that because an isolated individual or firm can "realize his capital" and spend it in shooting, a whole nation can do the same.

Let us suppose that Sir Douglas Haig comes to Mr. Wood George, the General of Hinderburg, to River Bethmann Hollweg, with the assurance that with unlimited munitions and men he can win the war. And let us add the further terrifying supposition that the statesman answers the soldiers as a practical man of business as follows:—"First, you will understand, we must win: that before everything. Now, as to our resources, let me see. The national income before the war was estimated at \$2,000,000,000. How much capital does that represent? I will take it at 5 per cent., because, though many of my friends get much more than that, still, as a cautious practical man of business, I will put it at that moderate figure. I therefore, being pledged, always as a practical man looking facts in the face, to the last shilling of our money and the last drop of our blood, have at my disposal \$40,000,000,000 ready capital under the hand of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. And I daresay I can borrow a lot more if the worst comes to the worst. You can lay your plans accordingly. Are you satisfied?" The soldier points out that owing to the prodigious impulse given to production by the war the national income must have at least doubled since 1914, and that the capital now available must therefore be nearer a hundred thousand millions than thirty thousand.

The statesman congratulates him on his practical knowledge of business, and admits that that is so. The soldier proceeds to plan his spring offensive on the assumption that he has a hundred thousand millions ready money to play with. In the middle of May, he surrenders at discretion; and all the practical statesmen are torn to pieces by an infuriated patriotic mob in Palace Yard.

Let nobody think that this is a joke. It is a quite possible mistake; and if it is to be made at all, it will be made by the Imperial Chancellor, and not by our Prime Minister.

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